

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/EP2002/008399



PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 12351WO /el	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2002/008399	International filing date (day/month/year) 26 July 2002 (26.07.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G01N 1/28		
Applicant P.A.L.M. MICROLASER TECHNOLOGIES AG		

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1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 12 September 2003 (12.09.2003)	Date of completion of this report 16 July 2004 (16.07.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2002/008399

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
 pages 1-13, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages 1-22, filed with the letter of 12 February 2004 (12.02.2004)
- ☒ the drawings:
 pages 1/1, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP 02/08399

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-22	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-22	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-22	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. WO-A-00/66994 (document D1) discloses (see, for example, figure 10c and the accompanying text) an arrangement comprising a substrate or specimen slide and a specimen of biological material mounted on the substrate. A transparent film (e.g. barrier coating 100) is applied to the surface of the biological material to smooth out surface unevenness and to enhance the characteristics which are to be examined under a microscope (D1 states that visualization of the biological material is improved).
2. Taking D1 as a starting point, the problem addressed by the present invention is that of providing a method for preparing biological material for examination under a microscope, and an arrangement comprising a substrate and a specimen of biological material mounted on the substrate and prepared in the manner described, with a view to ensuring not only that the biological material can be viewed and examined with optimal results using a microscope, but also, and in particular, that the biological material thus prepared can be used in laser microdissection systems, in which individual biological samples are cut out of a biological material specimen by laser irradiation and catapulted from a suitable

specimen slide into a receiving container by a laser shot or laser burst. The biological samples captured in the receiving container can then be examined under a microscope.

4. The problem is solved by applying a film to the surface of the biological material before using the LPC process in a laser microdissection system. The film is composed of a laser light-absorbing material so that the laser light emitted by the laser is absorbed completely. The applied film and the part of the sample which it covers can therefore be cut efficiently by the laser and catapulted from the specimen slide into a receiving container.
3. The full combination of features of independent claims 1 and 21 is neither known from nor suggested by the documents cited in the search report. These claims therefore meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3). The same applies to dependent claims 2 to 20 and 22.

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